

**Minutes of the Board of Regents
of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**

**Meeting No. 161
November 6, 2007**

The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences met on November 6, 2007, at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting date and agenda were published in the Federal Register and each Regent was duly notified prior to the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members and advisors were in attendance:

Board Members

Everett Alvarez, Jr., J.D., Chair
Linda J. Stierle, M.S.N., R.N., CNAA, Vice Chair
Otis W. Brawley, M.D., Member
Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., Member
William C. De La Peña, M.D., Member
Vinicio E. Madrigal, M.D., Member
Lawrence C. Mohr, M.D., Member
Charles L. Rice, M.D., President, USU
Jack W. Smith, M.D., representing the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
MG George W. Weightman, MC, USA, representing the Acting Surgeon General, U.S. Army
RDML Carol I. Turner, DC, USN, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy
Maj Gen Melissa Rank, USAF, MC, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force
CAPT Karen L. Siegel, USPHS, representing the Acting Surgeon General of the United States

Advisors to the Board

Larry W. Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, USU
William T. Bester, M.S.N., R.N., CNAA, Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, USU
MG Eric B. Schoomaker, MC, USA, Commanding General, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center
COL Patricia D. Horoho, NC, USA, Commander, Walter Reed Army Health Care System
CDR Martha K. Girz, MC, USN, representing the Commander, National Naval Medical Center
Christopher Lissner, Ph.D., representing the Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
John E. Baker, J.D., General Counsel, USU

AWARD PRESENTATION

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Rice presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, USPHS, in recognition of his many contributions to USU and the Board of Regents. As Acting Surgeon General of the United States or as the representative of the Surgeon General, Admiral Moritsugu was an active participant on the Board from 1999 to 2007.

MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT

Following introductions, Mr. Alvarez presented matters of general consent which consisted of the items below:

- Meeting dates for the coming year
- Minutes of the August 6, 2007, meeting of the Committee of the Whole
- Minutes of the August 7, 2007, Board of Regents Meeting
- Action taken by the Board since the August 2007 meeting. Ms. Scheman reported for the record the electronic approval of the Distinguished Service Medal just presented to Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, USPHS.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the matters of general consent as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Rice provided a status report on the search for the position of Dean, Graduate School of Nursing. He has received final recommendations from the Search Committee, resulting in the return of one candidate for final interviews. Dr. Rice regretfully announced the resignation of Mr. William Bester, who has ably served as acting dean since July 2006. Dr. Bruce Schoneboom will replace him. Additional topics in the President's Report included the following:

- Congratulations to Dr. Laughlin and his staff for an excellent site visit October 14-17, 2007, from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. This visit is a prerequisite for the university's re-accreditation as a school of medicine.
- Recent leadership changes, which include
 - The confirmation of MG Eric Schoomaker, MC, USA, as Surgeon General of the Army. General Schoomaker will assume his new position in early December 2007.
 - VADM Adam Robinson, MC, USN, becoming Surgeon General of the Navy in August 2007
 - The October 2007 appointment of RADM Steven Galson, USPHS, as Acting Surgeon General of the United States
 - The appointment of Rear Admiral John Mateczun, MC, USN, as Medical Commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region
- Activities concerning the integration of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center are currently focused on the impending environmental impact statement
- Dr. Laughlin and Dr. Steve Kaminsky, USU Vice President for Research, are involved in the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. The center was recently created by Dr. Casscells.
- Compliments to Ms. Mary Dix, Special Assistant to the President, as Building E construction remains on schedule and on budget

BOARD ACTIONS

Degree Granting – Graduate School of Nursing

Mr. Bester presented for certification the names of 16 graduate nursing students from the Nurse Anesthesia Program to receive the degree of Master of Science in Nursing from the Acting

Dean upon successful completion of program requirements. This class is scheduled to complete its program in December 2007.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with Mr. Bester and, based upon successful completion of program requirements, recommend to the President that the Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing implement the action.

Degree Granting – Graduate Education

Dr. Metcalf presented for certification seven candidates to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and two candidates to receive the degree of Doctor of Public Health.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Metcalf and to recommend that the President confer the degrees as stated.

Dr. Metcalf also presented for certification one candidate to receive the degree of Master of Science and two candidates to receive the degree of Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Metcalf and to recommend that the President confer the degrees as stated.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Dr. Laughlin presented the recommendations made by the School of Medicine Committee of Appointments, Promotion and Tenure at a meeting on October 4, 2007. Eighteen individuals were recommended for faculty appointments, promotions or tenure. Additionally, Dr. Laughlin verbally presented General Eric Schoomaker for appointment to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Military Medicine, as is customary for Surgeons General.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendations of the Committee as presented by Dr. Laughlin and recommend that the President implement the actions as stated.

Dr. Laughlin presented the recommendation that Przemyslaw Hirszel, M.D., Professor of Medicine, be appointed, upon his retirement, to the faculty rank of Emeritus Professor of Medicine.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the request as presented by Dr. Laughlin and to recommend that the President implement the action as stated.

Dr. Rice presented a recommendation from the Committee for Names and Honors which unanimously approved by email vote that the University Medal be awarded to Przemyslaw Hirszel, M.D.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the request as presented by Dr. Rice.

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Senior Vice President

Dr. Smith's report included the following information:

- Primary responsibility for recruitment to the School of Medicine has been transferred to the Office of Admissions under a new Associate Dean of Admissions and Recruitment. Staff attached to the former Office of Recruitment and Diversity has been transferred to the School of Medicine and the Vice President for Recruitment and Diversity is now a resource available to both the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Nursing.
- The establishment of a University Registrar is progressing. A software procurement plan has been approved and hopefully a search to fill the position will open this quarter.
- Areas involved in current or imminent accreditation reviews include continuing education credits for graduate nurses, the university's program in clinical psychology, and the veterinary pharmacy.

Dean's Report, Graduate School of Nursing

Mr. Bester introduced COL Bruce Schoneboom, AN, USA, who will serve as Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, upon Mr. Bester's departure in December 2007. The following points were also included in his report:

- Faculty searches are ongoing for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and the Nurse Anesthesia Program
- The curriculum is almost completed for the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program following a review of similar programs at other universities. This program was developed in response to a request from the U.S. Army and will begin in May 2008.
- The Federal Nursing Service Chiefs requested that the university study the feasibility of offering the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Two models were presented to the chiefs:
 - Offering the final two years of baccalaureate study, applicants having completed the first two years elsewhere
 - Offering registered nurses coursework leading to a bachelor's degree, using distance learning to a large extent

Primary challenges at USU for either option entail space and faculty requirements.

Topics of ensuing discussion included the current shortage of nursing faculty which is tied to the impending shortage of nurses in the United States; the move within the profession towards the requirement of a bachelor's degree, and, for advanced practice nurses, towards the requirement of a clinical doctorate.

- Dr. Christine Kasper is the new acting director of the doctoral program in the Graduate School of Nursing. Program candidates have successfully competed for nearly \$5 million in research grants.

- There are currently 145 students in the Graduate School of Nursing. The Nurse Anesthesia Program is the largest, with a total of 72 enrolled.

Dr. Rice thanked Mr. Bester for his outstanding leadership and the subsequent contributions to the Graduate School of Nursing. Mr. Alvarez added his thanks as well, both personally and on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Dean's Report, School of Medicine

As a prerequisite for the university's re-accreditation as a school of medicine, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education visited USU October 14-17, 2007. Although the university will receive its formal evaluation letter in February 2008, an extremely positive out brief was presented at the site visit's conclusion.

- Strengths included the following:
 - USU's educational process including competency-based goals and objectives
 - The Simulation Center and its integration into the medical school curriculum
 - The university's annual faculty evaluation process
 - USU's unique program in military medicine
 - Student quality
 - Excellent student support
- Areas needing work include recruiting greater numbers of under-represented minorities to both the faculty and student body.

Other items in Dr. Laughlin's report included the following:

- The university, in conjunction with staff at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center, has applied for a clinical translational science award from the National Institutes of Health.
- Dr. Earl Fauver, Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education, is stepping down as Institutional Official for the National Capital Consortium. An academic search has begun for this position.
- Chair searches for the departments of pharmacology and internal medicine are almost completed, and a search is just beginning for the department of obstetrics and gynecology.

Director's Report, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI)

Dr. Lissner reported that AFRRI recently completed a strategic plan which addresses both applied science research at the institute which is aimed at producing products for the Department, as well as military medical operations, which are primarily educational regarding the effects of radiation. This plan was presented to the Board of Governors in September 2007, and a follow-up meeting is planned for early 2008. Dr. Lissner also summarized some of the laboratory renovations and infrastructure upgrades which have taken place at AFRRI in the last two years.

U.S. Military Cancer Institute (USMCI)

Dr. Potter's remarks highlighted the following areas:

- Discussions are under way regarding possible participation in the \$100 million project to sequence the human cancer genome. This endeavor is a joint project of the National

Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Project. Although there are complex legal and ethical considerations, the USMCI BioSpeciman Network could contribute to this study, benefiting both the contributing volunteers and the project.

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs/Tricare Management Activity is requesting information on the incidence of cancer in military personnel who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Additionally, the USMCI is interested in the occurrences of cancer in military versus civilian populations. New collaborations among Service activities and agencies are being developed to gather and share data regarding these subjects.
- The new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center includes plans for the development of a cancer center on campus.

Finance and Administration

The following topics were included in Mr. Rice's report to the Board:

- USU's conversion to the National Security Personnel System is scheduled for February 3, 2008. The new system is for GS employees only and focuses on performance rather than longevity to determine pay.
- The U.S. Navy is no longer the university's executive agent. On October 1, 2007, civilian positions converted to the Department, and all funding now comes directly from the Tricare Management Activity rather than first through the U.S. Navy.
- The Department has directed that the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program will be funded in FY 2008 and FY 2009 and then added to the Defense Health Program base.
- The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has a tissue repository of approximately 100 million samples, some of which are around 150 years old. A contract has been awarded to evaluate collection's usefulness for research purposes.
- An applied medical education and research building for the university has been added to the master plan for the new Bethesda campus.

Budget

Mr. Tinling reported that the university's operation and maintenance budget increased during the quarter to an overall funding level of \$139.5 million. Also, at the close of FY 2007, USU's obligation rate was 99.99%. The outlook for FY 2008 is similar to that of FY 2007 as the year once again began under a Continuing Resolution and also contains no Congressional adds. Mr. Tinling reminded the Board that operating under a Continuing Resolution adds significant amounts of work to both the Directorate of Contracting and the Financial and Manpower Management Directorate. Mr. Tinling concluded his report with a comparison of USU's FY 2006 operation and maintenance obligations with those of FY 2007.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Dr. Williams thanked the Board of Regents and specifically Dr. Rice for the many and consistent efforts addressing salary comparability with other medical schools in addition to other issues in need of legislative amendments in order for change to occur. The Senate's version of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act contains several of these necessary amendments. Dr. Williams' report also included the following points:

- Dr. Mark Haigney recently completed a comparability study for the 2005-2006 academic year using actual data. He found a salary disparity of 20 percent for full professors in the

basic sciences and 65 percent for full professors in the clinical sciences. Administrators such as the university president and department chairs earn around 150 percent less than those in comparable positions elsewhere.

- The Faculty Senate is working on a measure which would provide continuing medical education travel funding to outstanding non-billeted faculty in core clinical clerkships.

PRESENTATION: VISIBILITY ON THE RISE

Ms. Scheman listed several areas within the purview of the Office of External Affairs and summarized recent activities within each. These areas included the following:

- Media Contact – In the past year there has been a significant increase in both radio and television interest concerning the university as well as an increase in press releases from USU's Media Office. Print and television coverage of the Bushmaster Exercise in both 2006 and 2007 is one example; it included an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, coverage by both Fox News and News 7 WJLA (ABC), and a YouTube videocast. Examples of print coverage on the School of Medicine in general or featuring a faculty member include *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Proceedings*, a publication of the U.S. Naval Institute.
- Branding – The use of consistent language and insignia in university publications helps audiences recognize and understand USU's schools, programs and centers. In the last year, branding initiatives can be seen in several new internal publications such as the *USU Newsletter*, the *2007 Report*, and new banners, posters and lobby exhibits. The university web site is much improved and plans are in place for new web architecture in the coming year.
- Current Priorities – Targeted audiences currently include DoD and other Federal agencies, prospective students and their parents, medical school advisors, underrepresented minorities (both faculty and students), elected and appointed officials at the Federal, state and local level, and the leadership in all the uniformed services.

General Weightman suggested using USU alumni who are now civilians at academic or research institutions as recruiting agents for the university.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Alvarez noted for the record the resignation of the Honorable William C. De La Peña from the Board of Regents effective today, and thanked him for his years of service. Dr. De La Peña's term expired June 20, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

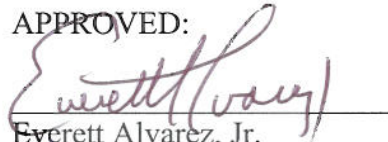
There being no further business, Mr. Alvarez adjourned the open meeting at 11:30 a.m.

SUBMITTED:



Carol R. Scheman
Acting Executive Secretary, Board of Regents

APPROVED:



Everett Alvarez, Jr.
Chair, Board of Regents

Prepared by Janet S. Taylor